

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 20, 1999, at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Members present were: Mr. John Groothuis, Ms. Anne Wall, Mr. Jim Hicks and Ms. Kathleen Pritchard. Staff was represented by Mr. Jay S. Banks and Susan DeJong.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 15, 1999 meeting were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Banks gave a presentation to the Tree Commission about how the ACRT Tree Inventory software works. The Street and Park tree inventory is now completed. The key aspect of this inventory is that proper tree management entails monitoring, and inspection, and that information can be obtained thru this software. This program directly measures the current status of the decline or improvement of the trees inventoried. This package is also unique in the fact that it gives us an actual visual representation on a map – GIS (Geographical Information System)

Mr. Hicks asked what the 2000 by 2000 tree count was and Mr. Banks stated that it is now 1,529 trees. This count does not include the 346 Kousa Dogwoods recently planted which would bring the count up to 1,875.

The Flower and Garden Festival and Arbor Day Sub-Committee reported that they had decided on the amount of brochures they would need for the events. A motion was made by Ms. Pritchard not to spend over \$290.00 on these brochures, seconded by Mr. Hicks and approved by all present.

A motion was made by Ms. Wall to purchase a self-inking stamp for the brochures that would say “Courtesy of the Leesburg, Virginia Tree Commission” with green ink, seconded by Mr. Hicks and approved by all present.

Mr. Banks asked the Commissioners if they wanted to spend \$150.00 for a booth at the Flower and Garden Show? The Flower and Garden Show will be held on April 29th & 30th, 2000. Ms. Pritchard made a motion to spend \$150.00 for a booth at the Flower and Garden Show, seconded by Ms. Wall and approved by all present.

Mr. Banks mentioned he had spoken with John Johnston of Parks and Recreation and Mr. Johnston said that part of the sketch plan for Robinson Park was to provide an area that would include trees for an Arboretum.

Mr. Hicks would like to go on record to say that he would like any arboretum that the Commission builds to be in one place, in one park and not spread out in a number of different parks.

The Commission members present had no new items to add to the Draft of the Zoning Ordinance update.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission decided to purchase 1,000 River Birch tree seedlings to give away at the Flower and Garden Show.

The Tree Commission will host the next Tri-Commissions meeting and has selected the date of March 6th, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level meeting room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. The Tree Commission will decide on an agenda at the next Tree Commission meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Pritchard asked if the Cable company that damaged the Pin Oaks in Fox Ridge Park had worked out anything. Mr. Banks said that the Cable company has been primarily talking with Mr. Johnston of Parks and Recreation, that they had scheduled a meeting – but the Cable company never called back to confirm the meeting.

Ms. Pritchard also asked about the Tree Commission Budget. Mr. Banks said that he would let the Director of Planning and Zoning know that the Tree commission is still working on it.

Mr. Banks stated that the total public tree inventoried for 1999 came out to 1,752 public trees.

Mr. Banks also said that the CIP project (Capital Improvement Project) on North King Street (the sidewalk and the turn lane) resulted in trees needing to be replaced. Six of the replacement trees will be placed in front of Ida Lee Park.

Mr. Banks handed out an example of a door hanger designed for letting the public know about the Leesburg Tree Commission. He asked the Commissioners to let him know what they thought about this at the next Tree Commission meeting.

There being no further business, the Tree Commission adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Mr. Jay S. Banks. Town Arborist

Susan C. DeJong, Recording Secretary